

Loudoun County, Virginia

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News Release

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Board of Supervisors Adopts Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has approved a budget totaling approximately \$2.46 billion in total appropriations for the general county government and school system for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 17). The adopted budget includes a real property tax rate of \$1.145 per \$100 in assessed value. The personal property tax rate remains unchanged at \$4.20 per \$100. The budget includes a local transfer to Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) of \$694.8 million, which is a 5.5 percent increase in local tax funding over FY 2016 and represents 97.6 percent of the School Board's budget request.

Operations and Debt Budget Summary

The FY 17 operating appropriation is comprised of more than a dozen separate funds totaling \$1.60 billion. The operating appropriations include:

- \$1.06 billion for LCPS;
- \$475.14 million for general government operations; and
- \$8.99 million for the Children's Services Act Fund.

In addition, the adopted budget includes \$195.45 million for debt service appropriations, of which \$134.88 million is for LCPS, \$50.19 million is for general government projects and \$10.38 million is for special tax districts.

About 69 percent of the \$837.12 million in revenues from local taxes, including real property and local sales taxes, and use of prior year fund balance will be used for school operating expenses, capital projects and debt service. The remaining 31 percent will be used for the general county government for operating expenses, capital projects and debt service.

The FY 17 budget includes funding for a limited number of enhancements focusing on the opening of new facilities, public safety, and social safety net services. The adopted budget also includes a 2.5 percent merit pay increase for eligible county employees and enhanced retirement benefits for hazardous duty positions.

Capital Improvement Program

The Board also adopted a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that totals \$1.796 billion for the six-year planning period from FY 2017 to FY 2022. The category with the largest expenditure percentage is transportation projects at 40 percent followed by school projects at 30 percent.

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To help address overcrowding and projected growth in the number of students in the Dulles North and Dulles South areas, the CIP accelerates funding for an elementary school (ES-28), a middle school (MS-7) and a high school (HS-11) into FY 2017 of the CIP. The proposed CIP also maintains funding for high priority general government projects.

Public Process

Adoption of the FY 17 budget came after a public process that included the presentation of the Proposed FY 17 Budget by the County Administrator in February, followed by public hearings in February and a series of public budget work sessions held by the Board of Supervisors in March. The budget will go into effect on July 1, 2016, while the new tax rates are effective April 5, 2016, and will be used for the spring tax collection. More information about the budget process is online at www.loudoun.gov/budget.